

United States Government

Department of Energy

Bonneville Power Administration

# memorandum

DATE: 12/22/98

REPLY TO  
ATTN OF: ECN-4

SUBJECT: Supplement Analysis for the Watershed Management Program EIS

TO: Jay Marcotte - EWN-4  
Fish and Wildlife Project Manager

**Proposed Action:** Little Walla Walla River Fish Screen Project

**Budget No:** F3486

**Watershed Management Techniques or Actions Addressed Under This Supplement Analysis (See App. A of the Watershed Management Program EIS):** 1.15 Fish Passage Enhancement - Fishways

**Location:** Milton-Freewater, Umatilla County, Oregon.

**Proposed by:** Bonneville Power Administration (BPA), and the Confederated Tribes of the Umatilla Indian Reservation (CTUIR).

**Description of the Proposed Action:**

The Little Walla Walla River is a canal that conveys water diverted from the Walla Walla River at River Mile 45.9 for use by downstream irrigators. The existing fish screening facility on the canal does not allow for adult fish bypass, so fish must be trapped, transported, and released into the mainstem of the Walla Walla River downstream of the irrigation diversion. Additionally, the existing screens do not meet current standards required by fisheries agencies.

The primary goal of the proposed Little Walla Walla River Fish Screen Project is to improve screening of juvenile salmonids so that they meet or exceed current fish screening criteria, and to improve fish bypass conditions. The proposed site enhancements for the Little Walla Walla River fish screens consist of:

- removal of existing drum screens and associated equipment;
- modification of the existing canal width and shape;
- installation of new fish screens;
- construction of a fish trap and haul facility;
- installation of a fish bypass pipeline;
- installation of a wasteway pipeline;
- installation of a rubber dam, spillway gate, and trashrack at the diversion; and
- construction of a bridge and levee access road across the canal.

**Analysis:** The compliance checklist for this project was completed by the BPA and meets the standards and guidelines for the Watershed Management Program Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) and Record of Decision (ROD).

Section 7 consultation was conducted with the US Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS) under the requirements of the Endangered Species Act. Of concern are the potential impacts from proposed project construction activities to the bald eagle, peregrine falcon, and bull trout. As a result, a biological assessment was completed and sent to USFWS. USFWS concurred on December 7, 1998, with BPA's finding that the proposed project as described in the BA, would not likely to adversely affect the bald eagle, peregrine falcon and bull trout.

A Cultural Resources Survey of the project area was conducted in August, 1998. No cultural resources were identified in the project area. The proposed project would have no effect on cultural resources.

**Findings:** The project is generally consistent with Section 2.1, 7.7, 7.8G, 7.8H, and 7.11C of the Northwest Power Planning Council's Fish and Wildlife Program. The attached Supplement Analysis finds 1) that the proposed actions are substantially consistent with the Watershed Management Program EIS (DOE/EIS-0265) and ROD, and; 2) that there are no new circumstances or information relevant to environmental concerns and bearing on the proposed actions or their impacts. Therefore, no further NEPA documentation is required.

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Dawn R. Boorse  
ECN Project Lead  
Environment, Fish and Wildlife Group

Concur:

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Thomas C. McKinney  
NEPA Compliance Officer

DATE: \_\_\_\_\_

**Attachments:**

NEPA Compliance Checklist  
USFWS Concurrence Letter on BA  
Cultural Resources Survey

cc:

L. Croff - ECP-4

B. Beraud - ECN-4

N. Weintraub - ECN-4

J. Marcotte - EWN-4

P. Key - LN-7

Official File - ECN (EQ-15)

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